# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6413
ANSWERED ON:07.05.2003
REVIEW OF TARIFF BY BSNL AND MTNL
A.P. JITHENDER REDDY;K. ASUNGBA SANGTAM

**Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:**

(a) whether it is a fact that BSNL and MTNL have recently reviewed tariff rates;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have taken private players into confidence to avoid unhealthy competition;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether any demand has been received from the private operators to review the tariff rate announced by the BSNL; and

(f) if so, the steps being taken to create level playing field for both Government and private players?

## Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN)

(a)&(b): Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) have recently announced their alternative tariff plans in respect of fixed Telephone service with due approval of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India. The details of these alternative tariff plans of BSNL are at Annexure-I and of MTNL at Annexure-II. These orders have come into effect from 01.05.2003.

(c)&(d): No, Sir. As per the TRAI Act 1997, the power to fix telecom tariffs has been mandated to TRAI only. The TRAI has made it mandatory for all service providers to obtain its approval for implementing their tariff plans. Tariffs plans are examined by TRAI to ensure their adherence to the existing regulation and consonance with customer protection. While approving the tariff plans, TRAI takes care of the regulatory issues, that the tariff plans are cost-based non- discriminatory and non-predatory.

(e)&(f): Some private operators have represented to TRAI for a review of the tariff rates announced by BSNL. As intimated by TRAI approval for the BSNL's tariff packages was accorded after examining these plans care fully in terms of the 24th amendment to the tariff order, the IUC regime and other regulatory guidelines. As long as tariff packages are within regulatory framework, these is no justification for intervention by the Authority.

Annexure-I

BSNL: Tariff for Basic Telephone Services

| | RURAL | | | | | URBAN | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Existing | TRAI* | General | Economy | Special | Existing | TRAI# | General | Economy | Special | Super |
| Rental Exchange capacity Below 1000 Lines | Rs. 50 | Rs. 70 | Rs. 50 | - | - | Rs.120 | Rs.120 | Rs.120 | - | - | - |
| 1000-29999 Lines | Rs.110 | Rs.120 | Rs.110 | - | - | Rs.120 | Rs.120 | Rs.120 | - | - | - |
| 30000-99999 Lines | RS.150 | Rs.200 | Rs.150 | - | - | Rs.180 | Rs.200 | Rs.180 | - | - | - |
| >100000 Lines | Rs.210 | Rs.280 | Rs.210 | - | - | Rs.250 | Rs.280 | Rs.250 | - | - | - |
| Plan changes (including rental) | - | - | - | Rs.150 | Rs.650- | - | - | - | Rs.350 | Rs.750 | Rs.1650 |
| Free | 125 | 50 | 50 | 150 | 700 | 75 | 30 | 30 | 150 | 600 | 1800 |

| Calls | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Call changes beyond free calls | Rs.0. 60 to 1.20 | Rs.0. 80 to 1.20 | Re. 0.80 to 1.20 | Re.1. 20 | Re.1.1 0 | Re.0.80 to 1.20 | Re.1.00 to 1.20 | Re.1.0 0 to 1.20 | Re.1. 20 | Re.1.10 | Re.1.0 0 |

# Pulse rate 2 minutes under TRAI for other options pulse rate 3 minutes for fixed line to fixed line.

- Intra Circle Long Distance calls beyond 200 km., brought down from Rs. 4.80 per minute to Rs. 2.40 per minute-available to all customers (including non-STD customers) by dialing '95'.

- Inter Circle Long Distance calls from fixed to cellular made cheaper from Rs. 4.80 per minute to Rs. 3.60 per minute for distance beyond 200km.

# Access to Internet made cheap during off-peak hours, 10.30p.m. to 6.30 a.m.

This will be at the rate of 10 minute pulse rate i.e. about Rs. 7.20 per hour.

Annexure-II

MTNL: Tariffs for Basic Telephone Services

| Facility | Existing | TRAI Standard | MTNL Economy | MTNL Economy plus | MTNL Super Saver |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Basic Rent | Rs. 250pm | Rs. 280 pm Sr. citizens Rs. 250 pm | Rs.250 pm | Rs.280 pm | Rs.2000 pm |
| Free calls | 75 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 2000 |
| Call charges | 76-200:Re.0.80 201-500: Re1.00 >500: Re 1.20 | 31-300:Re1.00 >300:Re1.20 | 31-300: Re 0.80 301-2000: Re 1.20 >2000: Re1.00 | 31-300:Re 0.80 301-2000: Re 1.20 >2000: Re1.00 | >2000:Re1.00 |
| Local call Pulse Duration (Within MTNL/ Other operators network) | 180sec. | 120sec. | 180sec. | 180sec. | 180sec. |
| Fixed to fixed | 180sec. | 90sec. | 60sec. | 60sec. | 60sec. |
| Fixed to Cellular | 180sec. | 120sec. | 90sec. | 90sec. | 90sec. |
| Fixed to WLL Mobile Phone Plus facilities | | | | | |
| 1. Abb. Dialing | Rs.20pm | Rs.10pm | Rs.10pm | | |
| 2. Cell transfer | Rs.20pm | Rs.10pm | Rs.10pm | | |
| 3. Hotline | Rs.20pm | Rs.10pm | Rs.10pm | | |
| 4. Three Party conferencing | Rs.20pm Rs. 9pm | Rs.10pm Rs. 9pm | Rs.10pm Rs. 9pm | Included in Basic rent | Included in Basic rent |
| 5. E-mail #(fixed rent) | Rs.50/- on registration and,Rs.20pm | Included in Basic rent | Basic rent | | |
| 6. CLIP | Included in | | | | |
| 7. Call Hunting/Call Alert/ Alarm / Dynamic STD Lock | included in Basic rent | | | | |

# Sending & retrieving E-Mail through PSTN Rs. 0.20 per msg. , sending SMS to mobile through land line phone is Rs. 0.50 per msg. retrieving E-mail on local fax Rs. 0.50 per fax.